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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT LENINGRAD, MOSCOW PLANTS  
PUT OUT DEFECTIVE POLYGRAPHIC MACHINERY

Letter to the editor: I have visited many printing establishments, and everywhere complaints are being made on the scarcity and poor quality of spare parts for polygraphic machines. We have to make these parts ourselves or order them from local plants, which is expensive. We have to pay too much, since they do not send us the more salable parts.

The Leningrad Linotip Plant has fulfilled its plan early. That is nice to know. Before the war, one had to wait a year or two for it to produce a typesetting machine. Now, orders are filled within a month or two. Development of complex machines by the plant is welcome, but unfortunately their quality is neglected.

Our printing office received a typesetter, Series 9, Type N-2., No 1854, produced in 1947. When the machine was assembled, it made improperly cast lines, with ragged points. Out of necessity it was used, but half of its output had to be reset.

For a year and a half, we strove to improve the quality of the cast lines, but with no success. Finally, in desperation, we knocked out the mouthpiece and found a wire lodged in the opening. Perhaps the chief of the Department of Technical Control of the Linotip Plant could tell how it got there. Besides, the front and back walls of the composing stick were not uniform.

The spare parts sent by the plant had many defects. Threads 8 millimeters in diameter were made for 10-millimeter screws, and other similar discrepancies were found. Since they do not caseharden certain rubbing parts of the machines at the plant, they deteriorate quickly. Many other defects could be mentioned.

For several years we have been sending statements on certain parts which we require to Glavpoligrafsnab (Main Administration of Polygraphic Supply), but we do not get them. They send us new parts one at a time. Glavpoligrafsnab should put out a new catalogue, since the new part designations do not conform with the terminology in the old catalogues.

- 1 -

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A Moscow plant which makes linotype matrixes has several times sent letters to printing establishments requesting a report on its output. Twice I wrote about the failings of the matrixes, but there have been no improvements. This plant apparently sacrifices quality for quantity. -- A. Karlov, instructor, linotype shop, Kurskaya Pravda printing office

Editor's reply: Karlov's letter was routed to Glavpoligrafizdat (Main Administration of the Polygraphic and Publishing Industry). The deputy chief replied that the complaint had been directed to Glavmashpriborostyt (Main Administration of Machine and Instrument Sales) USSR for the taking of proper measures; that instructions had been given to Soyuzpoligrafsnab (Polygraphic Supply Union) to check the statements of the Kurskaya Pravda printing office on linotype spare parts and to deliver those which had not been sent; and that the question of the publication of a catalogue of spare parts for linotypes had been referred to the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building USSR.

A reply was quickly received from Soyuzpoligrafsnab. The deputy chief stated that the Linotip Plant had not met the requirements of polygraphic enterprises in spare parts for typesetting machines for a number of years; that it had not fulfilled its contracts in 1949; that Soyuzpoligrafsnab is trying to guarantee supply of spare parts for typesetting machines as required by the enterprises; and that the question of issuing a spare parts catalogue has been repeatedly placed before the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building, although there had been no definite results up to the present.

Thus it goes round in a circle. The main questions, whether there will be spare parts, and whether their quality will be improved, remain unsettled.

In fairness, it should be said that the deputy chiefs of Glavpoligrafizdat and Soyuzpoligrafsnab sent copies of their replies to Karlov. However, slips of paper are no substitutes for spare parts. Karlov wrote another letter, stating that if there had heretofore been any hope at all of getting spare parts, it was now completely lost.

It is to be assumed that the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building will clarify this situation.

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- 2 -

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